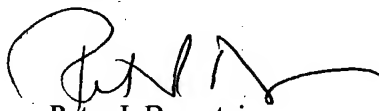


**REMARKS**

In response to the Official Action dated January 29, 2003, Applicants affirm the election of Group I, claims 1-4 and 12-32 and the species on page 9, lines 21-22.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in this application prior to examination. Early and favorable consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter I. Bernstein', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter I. Bernstein  
Registration No. 43,497

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PIB:dg